

DRUM FOR CHANGE

EDUCATORS GUIDE



www.drumforchange.com

***EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW
FOR A GREAT DAY OF DRUMMING***



THIS IS GONNA ROCK!

Drum for Change provides interactive cultural arts education programs using drums and percussion from around the planet. Greg Whitt personally leads these sessions to align with your school's bell schedule; lower elementary students do great with 30-minute sessions, and higher grades typically drum for up to an hour. Sessions are always hands-on: every student plays real instruments that are lively, loud, and fun. Your students will be buzzing about this for days after the visit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

Your classroom, multipurpose room, media center, stage, or patio will be transformed into a drum circle where everyone gets in on the action. Classroom programs are limited to 25 participants so that everyone gets to play a real hand drum from Africa. Students will learn about it's origin, construction, and traditional uses. They'll participate in a fully-facilitated program to experience rhythm, song, and dance. The program is laced with music, history, culture, and character development.

A drum circle in your school has more than curricular connections. It also teaches about teamwork, self-expression, and communication. Your students will not only create music together, but will also have the added bonuses of laughter, focus, stress reduction, and inclusion. Group drumming has been clinically proven to provide numerous biological and psycho-social benefits that are inherent in the experience.

HOW TO PREPARE

Drum for Change typically arrives at your school 30-45 minutes before the first scheduled session. Greg brings a van full of instruments and needs to park near the closest exterior door to the space we'll be using for your event. Load-in takes time and requires helpers to get the gear inside; early arrivals and safety patrols are great at this!

Your space should be arranged before I arrive. For normal classroom programs we'll need a single circle of chairs set one chair-width apart with two aisles in to the center. For larger programs, please pass this photo to the person in charge of arranging the space. It shows a typical configuration, but will need to be adjusted to the appropriate size for your largest number of participants.



BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE

This works best when your students know what to expect before their day of drumming.

1. Dresses and skirts should not be worn; the drums are held between the knees.
2. Drums are played with the hands; metal rings, watches, and bracelets are prohibited.
3. Students are asked not to talk during the program. We'll be communicating with drums rather than voices. Specific instructions will be delivered before students enter the drum circle.
4. Teachers are expected to participate; drumming is not a spectator sport. It sets a great example and inspires students to engage with the teacher in a new way.
5. As a professional arts educator, Greg is great at keeping students focused. Since he's a guest at your school, teachers should always be present because he won't know your students' special needs, your school's rules and regulations, or even where to find the bathrooms.



Djembe shells from Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast, and Guinea.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blanc, Serge	<i>African Percussion: The Djembe*</i>
Charry, Eric	<i>A Guide to the Jembe</i>
Dworsky, Alan	<i>How to Play Djembe:</i>
& Sansby, Betsy	<i>West African Rhythms for Beginners*</i>
Friedman, R. L.	<i>The Healing Power of the Drum</i>
Hart, Mickey	<i>Planet Drum: A Celebration of Percussion and Rhythm</i>
Hull, Arthur	<i>Drum Circle Spirit*</i>
Kalani	<i>Together in Rhythm:</i>
	<i>A Facilitator's Guide to Drum Circle Music*</i>
Redmond, Layne	<i>When the Drummer's Were Women:</i>
	<i>A Spiritual History of Rhythm</i>
Stevens, Christine	<i>The Art & Heart of Drum Circles*</i>

* Indicates items with companion CD or DVD media

WEB RESOURCES

www.remo.com/health

http://www.ted.com/talks/evan_grant_cymatics.html

BIOGRAPHY

GREGORY WHITT, FACILITATOR & EDUCATOR

"I believe life is richer when we communicate, cooperate, and collaborate with one another and with the world around us. Because I believe this, I facilitate programs to help people live, work, and play well together. I happen do this using drums and percussion from around the planet in a way that's lively, loud, and fun."



Greg is an in-demand teaching artist based in Raleigh, NC. He's a two-time recipient of Regional Artist Project Grants to study music of the African diaspora in the Caribbean. Greg holds a bachelor's degree in Communication from NC State University and a graduate certificate in Transformative Leadership from the Maryland University of Integrative Health. He is a US Air Force veteran. Greg regularly facilitates interactive and inspirational programs for groups of 10 to 300 people.

Greg's programs are all about applied philosophy; bridging timeless wisdom traditions with modern society. Rather than a merely cognitive understanding of these principles, he takes a hands-on approach for lasting impact. He uses group drumming to highlight indigenous values. Concepts like balance, celebration, connection to nature, gratitude, inclusion, positivity, respect, ritual, service to others, and unity all serve as positive examples for healthy, happy, and productive lifestyles for modern society.